

SOVIET PROMOTIONS

- I. Surprise Soviet promotions announced
28 February: three former "deputy
chairmen" of Council of Ministers were
upped to senior rank of "first deputy
chairmen." In view Malenkov ouster, the
three (Mikoyan, Saburov, Pervukhin)
could have as logically been demoted
instead. At same time, four new faces
added to Council, not with bottom rank
of "member," but with next higher rank
of "deputy chairman."
 - A. Presidium of Council (top govern-
ment body, made up of "Chairman,"
all "first deputy chairmen") thus
raised from three to six people.
 - B. Presidium now includes all top
party figures except Khrushchev
and Voroshilov (not on Council) and
Malenkov (now only a "deputy chair-

- C. Malenkov's Council position now inferior to that of any other top party member.
 - D. Changes both broaden leadership base of Soviet government and confirm continuing influence of younger industrial technicians and central planning specialists.
 - E. Although some of promoted managerial bureaucrats have been long-time Malenkov associates, they apparently owe their rise to fact they able--nearly indispensable--administrators.
- II. Changes also emphasize importance USSR currently attaches to defense industries.
- A. One new deputy chairmen (Zavenyagin) a leading figure in Soviet atomic energy program; another (Khrunichev) a former Minister of Aviation Industries.

- B. Zhukov (Minister of Defense) did not get promotion to "deputy chairman" level--thus, armed forces have no Council representation at upper levels except for Premier Bulganin (former Defense Minister).
- C. On other hand, no secret police members (MVD or KGB) promoted, either.
- D. Three top promotions (to "first deputy chairman") perhaps to demonstrate continued unity at the top, to suggest no widespread purge of former Malenkov supporters in offing.
1. Mikoyan one of most outspoken for consumer goods program. Saburov and, to lesser extent, Pervukhin also thought to have been Malenkov followers.
- E. Two additional changes (announced on

2 March), replacing the Minister of

State Farms and the Minister of the Coal Industry, were of interest in view of the Bulganin regime's renewed emphasis on agriculture and heavy industry.